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Sen. Stamas says emerald ash borer forums in northern Michigan informational

LANSING – Informational forums on the widespread and devastating effects of the emerald ash borer held in northern Michigan yesterday were a success, announced state Sen. Tony Stamas, R-Midland.

Both forums were held Monday, Feb. 28 and featured representatives from the Michigan Department of Agriculture, foresters with the Michigan Conservation Districts, and the Michigan State University Cooperative Extension. Representatives of the Michigan Farm Bureau were also in attendance.

Roughly 25 residents attended the forum in Gaylord, while approximately 70 residents attended the forum held in Alcona County.

“The forums were extremely helpful and informational,” Stamas said. “The presentations provided by the Michigan Department of Agriculture were insightful and useful.”

Emerald ash borer quarantines have been established in portions of Oscoda, Alcona, Iosco and Midland counties.

Recently Senate Republicans introduced legislation to identify prohibited insects and aquatic plant species such as the emerald ash borer and the Asian longhorned beetle, which both threaten Michigan’s tree population. The legislation would also prohibit the release and introduction of certain insects and aquatic plant species.

“These forums will help strengthen the lines of communications between the Michigan Department of Agriculture and the residents of the 36th Senate District, who are dealing with emerald ash borer infestations,” Stamas said. “It’s important to educate and empower ourselves about how to properly help prevent the spread of this devastating insect.”

Future forums at other locations in the 36th Senate District will be announced in the near future.

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